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Libya Belittles Reported Plan To Oust Qaddafi

Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya, Nov. 4—Libya said today that an alleged CIA plan to undermine Muammar Qaddafi's government demonstrated the failure of Reagan administration policy, which it described as "open blackmail and muscular thuggery."

In Moscow, the official Soviet news agency Tass called it another example of what the Soviet Union refers to as U.S. state terrorism.

The comments were reactions to a Washington Post report Sunday that Reagan authorized the Central Intelligence Agency to support covert operations against Qaddafi.

White House spokesman Bill Hart declined to confirm the existence or credibility of the documents quoted by The Post, but said Sunday that Reagan ordered an investigation "in an effort to determine who is responsible for [the] disclosure and to take appropriate action."

The official Libyan news agency, JANA, called the report a revelation of U.S. plans to "carry out terrorist sabotage" against Libya with the aim of "weakening it and halting its successes in confronting U.S. destructive activities all over the world."

"This new step the U.S. president takes reflects the true feeling of failure the U.S. president suffers from, the fear from Libya," the English-language dispatch said. "It is proof of his admittance of the failure of his policy of open blackmail and muscular thuggery."

It added: "The revelation of this secret plan is not considered the first of its kind in the record of pathetic adventures supervised, financed and directly carried out by the U.S. government."

The Post quoted government sources it did not identify as saying Reagan gave the CIA approval to attempt to undermine or overthrow Qaddafi. It said this was to be accomplished by drawing him into some foreign adventure or terrorist exploit that would give a neighboring foe such as Algeria or Egypt a chance to strike against him.

Algeria's official news agency said cooperating in such an action "is neither within the ethical nor the political morals" of that nation. "Algeria has never severed its close ties with Libya, and they remain," it said.

Tass, the Soviet news agency, said: "The green light given by the White House to the Central Intelligence Agency and other secret services in their criminal actions against Libya is a fresh instance of international terrorism, which has been elevated to the status of state policy of the U.S."

"Political, military and economic pressure on sovereign Libya, attempts to destabilize the situation inside and around it, to topple the Libyan government, not stopping short of an attempt on the life of the leader of the Libyan revolution, have long become one of the areas of work of the present Washington administration," it said.